Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

2014/15 Annual Service Plan Report

BRITISH COLUMBIA

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Minister's Message and Accountability Statement

I am honoured to present the *Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation 2014/15 Annual Service Plan Report*, outlining achievements during the fiscal year ending March 31, 2015.

This report outlines the ministry's work to build a stronger relationship with First Nations and help close the socio-economic gaps that separate Aboriginal peoples from other British Columbians. Over the past year, the ministry has continued to make progress in strengthening relationships with First Nations, while promoting economic growth and job creation.

The past year saw the Supreme Court of Canada granting more than 1,700 square kilometres of land in British Columbia Aboriginal title to the Tsilhqot'in Nation – the first time the court has made such a ruling regarding Aboriginal land. The BC government has continued efforts to significantly enhance economic, environmental, and collaborative decision-making opportunities for First Nations.

First Nations engagement, through negotiation, is pivotal to the well-being of Aboriginal interests, businesses and citizens. In 2014/15, the Province signed close to 100 economic and reconciliation agreements with First Nations.

The ministry engaged with over 40 First Nations to discuss the benefits related to liquefied natural gas development in British Columbia and achieved pipeline benefits agreements with 28 First Nations. *BC's Skills for Jobs Blueprint* prioritizes access to education and training for Aboriginal people so they can take advantage of economic opportunities in their communities and throughout British Columbia. The Province's goal is to add 15,000 more Aboriginal workers within 10 years.

In 2014/15, the Province signed 13 clean energy revenue-sharing agreements. First Nations are embracing economic opportunities in balance with being stewards of the land.

The Giving Voice project is an initiative of the Minister's Advisory Council for Aboriginal Women. In 2014/15, 37 community-based organizations received funding to support programs aimed at stopping violence against Aboriginal women and girls by changing behaviours and attitudes, and mobilizing communities.

The *Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation 2014/15 Annual Service Plan Report* compares the ministry's actual results to the expected results identified in the *2014/15 - 2016/17 Service Plan*. I am accountable for those results as reported.

Honorable John Rustad
Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation
June 17, 2015

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Purpose of the Ministry

The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation is the BC Government's lead for pursuing reconciliation with the Aboriginal peoples[1] of British Columbia. A key component of reconciliation involves creating relationships that are mutually beneficial through collaboration and commitment. This includes working together to create a strong economy and a secure tomorrow so that all British Columbians, including Aboriginal peoples, are able to pursue their goals. For us to continue to be successful, uncertainty created by undefined Aboriginal rights must be addressed. Government must work in partnership with Aboriginal peoples to improve their participation in the economy and their quality of life. Three foundational documents provide a framework for the ministry's work: the *New Relationship*, the *Transformative Change Accord*, and the *Métis Nation Relationship Accord*. There are many paths to reconciliation and the ministry uses a variety of tools and approaches to respond to the diverse needs and interests of Aboriginal peoples.

Strategic Direction and Context

Strategic Direction

The *BC Jobs Plan* is transforming British Columbia's economy through mining, natural gas, pipeline, transportation infrastructure, clean energy and other major development opportunities. In order for the Province to take full advantage of these opportunities, legal requirements regarding Aboriginal rights must be addressed and Aboriginal peoples must be provided with the information and resources necessary to fully participate. Link: www.gov.bc.ca/arr.

In 2014/15, the ministry continued to fulfill the initiatives outlined in its mandate letter. In addition, the ministry will continue discussions with the Principals regarding the potential for improvements to the treaty process in British Columbia. The Province is committed to working with First Nations on the treaty negotiations process in British Columbia. There are a number of important treaty tables that are reaching milestones that will bring long-term reconciliation to those First Nation communities. Finding lasting reconciliation and resolving the land-claim issues are of critical importance for all British Columbians.

In implementing the Violence Free BC program, the Province and Aboriginal leaders signed a Memorandum of Understanding recognizing the shared responsibility and accountability in ending violence against Aboriginal women and girls. The Giving Voice project aimed at changing behaviours and attitudes within communities is a project designed and developed by and for Aboriginal women. The Province is committed to a collaborative approach to address violence against Aboriginal women and improving the quality of life for all Aboriginal people in British Columbia.

[1]Canada's Aboriginal population is distinct and diverse. The *Constitution Act* recognizes the Aboriginal peoples of Canada as the Indian, Inuit and Métis peoples of Canada. "First Nation" is the generally preferred term for Indian peoples of Canada. The term Aboriginal as used throughout this document includes all people of Aboriginal ancestry, including First Nations, Métis and Inuit. The term communities means the diversity of Aboriginal communities as defined by Aboriginal peoples and includes descriptions such as urban, rural, metropolitan, land-based and reserve. The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation works with all Aboriginal peoples wherever they may live in British Columbia.

In the following Report on Performance, the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation explains each of the targets and the ministry's commitment in achieving them.

Strategic Context

The Supreme Court of Canada granted Aboriginal title to the Tsilhqot'in Nation on June 26, 2014. Aboriginal title includes the right to exclusive use and occupation of the land, the right to the economic benefits of the land, and the ability to determine how the land is used. The ruling was the first in Canada declaring Aboriginal title to a large tract of land outside of a reserve.

The Province recognizes Aboriginal title in British Columbia. The challenge and opportunity is how to implement title given that a diversity of views exists on how best to achieve this in the most collaborative and timely way. On September 10, 2014, the Tsilhqot'in Nation, Xeni Gwet'in and the Province signed a Letter of Understanding to explore how to implement the Supreme Court of Canada's decision. The Province has also committed to working with First Nations through an annual gathering and through ongoing, government-to-government engagement.

The Province is committed to securing the active involvement and support of the federal government, providing further clarity about title land use for tenure holders, and continuing to develop economic sustainability and support self-governance. New initiatives that move toward longer-term reconciliation will explore economic opportunities and improve the health, education and socio-economic well-being of First Nations and all British Columbians.

Report on Performance

In 2014/15, the ministry continued its work to build stronger relationships with First Nations and help to close the socio-economic gap that separates Aboriginal peoples from other British Columbians.

Over the year, the ministry continued its collaboration with First Nations to foster economic development. The Province engaged in numerous negotiations in order to conclude non-treaty agreements to ensure First Nations benefit from and participate in development opportunities in their traditional territories. Specific elements of each agreement are flexible, depending on the parties' objectives, local needs, and relationship history. While the types of agreements reached differed from the targets outlined, the ministry achieved its mandate of ten new non-treaty benefit agreements and exceeded its overall target. Concluding these negotiations demonstrates the ministry's commitment to reaching agreements with First Nations that are relevant to each First Nation's unique needs.

In addition to the continued support for non-treaty agreements, the Province remains committed to working with First Nations on the treaty negotiations process. The ministry completed two incremental treaty agreements, which facilitate immediate opportunities for the First Nations. Incremental treaty agreements advance treaty-related benefits; they create incentives to reach further treaty milestones and provide increased certainty over land and resources.

The ministry's efforts related to the negotiation and implementation of agreements directly supports development in the resource sector and provides opportunities for First Nation communities to share in the benefits of development.

The Province's priority is to provide the certainty required to establish the liquefied natural gas industry and ensure First Nations can share in the benefits. The Province is working with more than 40 First Nations to discuss benefits, concerns and the engagement process on proposed natural gas pipelines and liquefied natural gas related infrastructure within their traditional territory.

Pipeline benefits agreements with First Nations are part of the Province's comprehensive plan to partner with First Nations on liquefied natural gas opportunities. Provincial benefit-sharing on pipeline projects provide ongoing benefits to First Nations along the natural gas pipeline project routes. In addition to pipeline agreements, the Province is entering into agreements with First Nations regarding the production of natural gas and identifying locations for liquefaction and export facilities. These agreements offer First Nations resources to partner in economic development, and is a powerful way for government and First Nations to work together to help grow the liquefied natural gas industry.

The First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund supports a diverse range of First Nations' projects. In 2014/15, the Province signed 13 clean energy revenue-sharing agreements, which will provide First Nations with revenues received from clean energy projects. First Nations are embracing economic opportunities in balance with being stewards of the land.

Along with the Province's resource development initiatives with First Nations, there will also be new environmental stewardship and skills training opportunities. The *BC's Skills for Jobs Blueprint* prioritizes access to education and training for Aboriginal peoples so they can take advantage of economic opportunities in their communities and throughout British Columbia. The Province's goal is to add 15,000 more Aboriginal workers within 10 years.

In order to support the Taxpayer Accountability Principles, the ministry initiated expenditure restraint measures, including adhering to government-wide Managed Hiring Guidelines, travel restrictions, and other operating cost-management initiatives. The ministry has participated in the core review process and is currently pursuing recommendations. The ministry is committed to meeting its fiscal objectives while achieving its commitments to First Nations and all British Columbians.

Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Results

Goal 1: Immediate opportunities for improved Aboriginal participation in the economy and increased certainty for development

Objective 1: Improved economic and social outcomes for Aboriginal peoples

Strategies

- Negotiate and sign agreements with First Nations that create economic and social benefits, including resource revenue and benefits sharing agreements with First Nations impacted by industries such as mining.

- Work across government and in partnership with Aboriginal peoples to implement the *Transformative Change Accord* and the *Métis Nation Relationship Accord*. Monitor and report on activities and progress on meeting these goals.

Performance Measure 1: Revenue sharing agreements

Performance Measure	2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Target	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target
Number of completed revenue sharing agreements with First Nations	8	6	4	3	4	4

Data Source: Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation.

Note: This performance measure includes completed economic and community development agreements for the mining industry only. In previous service plans economic benefit agreements were also included under this measure.

Note: The combined total of the 2013/14 and the 2014/15 actuals for performance measures 1 and 4 are intended to align with the ministry's goal of securing 10 new non-treaty agreements with First Nations across British Columbia by 2015.

Discussion

The mining, tourism and oil and gas sectors create a wide range of jobs across the province that support families, accelerate economic growth and attract investment. British Columbia is a leader in Canada in resource revenue and benefits sharing with First Nations. While the Province is committed to sharing revenue with First Nations from resource development in their traditional territories, a number of circumstances slowed or delayed the conclusion of anticipated mining economic and community development agreements in 2014/15. The tailings pond breach at the Mount Polley mine required review, action and resourcing and directly impacted some negotiation time frames as First Nations waited for assurances. Low commodity prices, particularly molybdenum, resulted in at least one mine shifting from production to maintenance, thereby reducing the incentive for First Nations to proceed to agreement. In some cases, First Nations gave priority to negotiations related to other sectors such as liquefied natural gas. Although these circumstances prevented the ministry from achieving its annual target for economic and community development agreements, it successfully met its mandate of ten non-treaty benefit agreements.

Performance Measure 2: Forest consultation and revenue sharing agreements

Performance Measure	2012/13 Actual*	2013/14 Actual*	2014/15 Target	2014/15 Actual*	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target
Number of completed agreements under the Forest Consultation and Revenue Sharing Agreement program.	108	136	124	118	128	130

Data Source: Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation.

*Totals include the forest consultation and revenue sharing agreements in effect that were signed in previous years as well as renewals.

Discussion

Forest consultation and revenue sharing agreements share forestry revenues with First Nations based on forest activity in their traditional territories. Upon expiration of agreements after three years, First Nations have the option to renegotiate and renew agreements. In 2014/15, there was a lower than expected uptake of forest consultation and revenue sharing agreements resulting in a lower than anticipated number of effective agreements. First Nations may be postponing their renegotiations of forest consultation and revenue sharing agreements in anticipation of potential changes in provincial revenue sharing approaches in response to the Supreme Court of Canada's *Tsilhqot'in Nation v. British Columbia* decision. Engagements with First Nations are being planned in 2015/16 to discuss the development of provincial revenue sharing. First Nations may be reluctant to sign on to new or renegotiated agreements prior to those engagements. The Province is open to new, innovative ideas with respect to how land and resource decisions are made and First Nations' rights and title are accommodated.

Objective 2: Respectfully reconcile provincial interests with First Nations' Aboriginal and treaty rights

Strategies

- Support the conclusion of agreements among First Nations, the BC Government and local governments.
- Continue to seek improvements to treaty making through tripartite processes, including treaty revitalization.
- Link economic development to treaty through land transfers for current and future use.
- Work within government, with First Nations and with First Nations' leaders to understand, clarify and seek solutions to issues involving Aboriginal rights and title.

Performance Measure 3: Treaties and related agreements

Performance Measure	2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Target	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target
Number of completed treaties, incremental treaty agreements and agreements in principle.	11	4	5	2	5	5

Data Source: Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation.

Note: The forecast and targets for this measure have decreased compared to targets in previous service plans.

Discussion

The ministry negotiates treaty, treaty-related, and non-treaty agreements to support successful reconciliation and to secure a better future for all British Columbians. A treaty is comprehensive and enables long-term reconciliation between First Nations and government. In establishing its target for 2014/15, the ministry anticipated reaching agreements in principle with five First Nations: Malahat,

Scia'new (Beecher Bay), Songhees, and Snaw-naw-as (Nanoose) and T'sou-ke First Nations. As the signing of the agreements did not occur until April 2015, they will be counted toward 2015/16 results. The ministry concluded incremental treaty agreements with the Ktunaxa Nation and the Homalco Indian Band.

Goal 2: Reconciliation with Aboriginal peoples in British Columbia

Successful reconciliation produces long-term social, economic and cultural advantages for all British Columbians. Reconciliation is an ongoing process and it is rarely straightforward. It requires trust and commitment to overcome stumbling blocks along the way, and a willingness to learn from each other at all stages. Relationships built on mutual respect and recognition are key to making reconciliation possible.

Objective 3: Establish respectful relationships with Aboriginal peoples as a model for all British Columbians

Strategies

- Facilitate and support collaboration among Aboriginal organizations, all levels of government and the private sector on initiatives aimed at improving social and economic outcomes for Aboriginal peoples.
- Provide advice, guidance and direction to industry in engaging with Aboriginal peoples.
- Avoid confrontation and resolve issues.
- Engage with the First Nations Leadership Council to reach shared goals regarding improving First Nations' communities and increasing certainty on the land base.
- Work with other provinces, territories, the federal government and national Aboriginal organizations to initiate and coordinate efforts to address issues of mutual interest.
- Directly engage with business and industry on supporting First Nations' participation in liquefied natural gas development.
- Work across ministries to support Aboriginal peoples' access to programs and services associated with liquefied natural gas related skills development and training.

Discussion

In furthering its respectful relationships with Aboriginal peoples, the Province has introduced and continued a number of initiatives. The ministry has committed to improving outcomes for Aboriginal peoples by working closely with First Nations, industry and the federal government. In 2014/15, the Province partnered with organizations such as the Aboriginal Business and Investment Council, the Business Council of British Columbia, the BC First Nations Energy and Mining Council and the Provincial Forestry Forum First Nations Steering Committee to facilitate industry working with First Nations.

In order to reach shared goals regarding improving First Nations' communities and increasing certainty on the land base, the ministry engaged with the First Nations Leadership Council on various policy issues, including enhancing water sustainability, ending violence against Aboriginal women and girls, and planning and delivering the 2014 Cabinet-First Nations Leaders' Gathering: the first in what will now be an annual event.

In 2014/15, 37 community-based organizations will share close to $350,000 in Giving Voice grants to fund programs aimed at stopping violence against Aboriginal women and girls, by changing behaviours and attitudes, and mobilizing communities. The Giving Voice project is an initiative of the Minister's Advisory Council for Aboriginal Women whose members are respected Aboriginal women from across British Columbia. The purpose of the Giving Voice initiative is to provide Aboriginal women, men, youth, and Elders safe opportunities to give voice to issues of violence and abuse within their lives, families, and communities.

The role of First Peoples' Cultural Council (Council) is to monitor the status of First Nations languages, cultures, and arts, and develop strategies that assist communities to recover and sustain their heritage. On June 21, 2014, the Council launched the "Our Living Languages" exhibition at the Royal BC Museum that captured the beauty of British Columbia's First Nations languages and focused attention on the community-based language revitalization efforts happening across the province. The exhibition won an Award of Excellence from the American Alliance of Museums in April 2015.

To support the *BC's Skills for Jobs Blueprint*, the ministry has had the lead in working with key ministries including the ministries of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training, Advanced Education, Education, Social Development and Social Innovation and the Industry Training Authority, as well as the federal government to ensure an overall coordinated skills training and employment approach is undertaken in support of British Columbia's Aboriginal population. A key target of the Blueprint is to increase Aboriginal workforce participation by 15,000 new Aboriginal workers over the next ten years.

The ministry worked with a number of provincial ministries and the federal government to support six groupings of First Nation communities in the identification of regionally-based skills development priorities with a primary focus on First Nations impacted by liquefied natural gas. The ministry provided a total of $120,000 in 2014/15 to the six groups to convene community-based dialogues regarding skills development and employment needs which will help to inform the investment of up to $30 million in Aboriginal skills development funding between 2015/16 and 2017/18.

In addition, the ministry also worked with provincial ministries and the federal government on the following key initiatives:

- The ministry worked with the federal government to provide $3.5 million of federal funding over the next three years for community-based workforce navigators in First Nation communities impacted by liquefied natural gas.
- The ministry developed an inventory of Aboriginal skills training programs intended to be used by Aboriginal communities as a guide to provide information about available programs.
- The ministry supported implementation of liquefied natural gas skills training workshops for Aboriginal participants in Prince Rupert, Prince George, Hazelton and Fort St. John.

Engagement with Aboriginal youth was also undertaken to discuss skills training interests, as over 50 per cent of BC's Aboriginal population is under the age of 25 and represents a critical and much needed element of BC's future workforce.

In 2014/15, the ministry worked in cooperation with the Natural Resource Sector agencies, First Nations, industry and other parties to proactively identify and coordinate responses to conflict situations before they escalate. While the issues facing Aboriginal people may, at times, be difficult to resolve, the Province firmly believes that respectful negotiation, not confrontation, is the most effective way to find resolution to these issues.

Objective 4: Seek opportunities for early engagement of Aboriginal peoples on initiatives that affect their families and their communities

Strategies

- Support First Nations' access to land and resource tenures.
- Negotiate and implement forms of reconciliation agreements with First Nations that contribute to improved social and economic outcomes for Aboriginal peoples.
- Exceed the *BC Jobs Plan* commitment of 10 further non-treaty agreements by 2015.

Performance Measure 4: Strategic agreements

Performance Measure	2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Target	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target
Number of completed agreements that support strategic engagement with First Nations, including reconciliation agreements, strategic engagement agreements, economic benefit agreements and clean energy business fund agreements.	7	4	7	21	7	7

Data Source: Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation.
Note: Performance Measure 4 includes agreements which have not been included under this measure in previous service plans. In 2013/14, clean energy business fund agreements were not included in the performance measure and 21 agreements were not counted in the actual results. Including clean energy business fund agreements, the 2013/14 total is 25 strategic agreements.
Note: The combined total of the 2013/14 and the 2014/15 actuals for performance measures 1 and 4 are intended to align with the ministry's goal of securing 10 new non-treaty agreements with First Nations across British Columbia by 2015.

Discussion

Non-treaty agreements focus on ensuring First Nations benefit from and participate in development opportunities. Specific elements of each agreement are flexible, depending on the parties' objectives, local needs, and relationship history. Strategic engagement agreements establish a government-to-

government relationship and improve processes for decision making. Reconciliation agreements are specifically designed to increase economic and legal certainty for resource and land use, establish a process for shared decision making and create economic opportunities for First Nations' communities. In 2014/15, the ministry concluded six new strategic engagement and reconciliation agreements.

The clean energy business fund was created as part of the *Clean Energy Act* to facilitate increased participation of First Nations in clean, renewable energy projects within their traditional territories. The First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund supports a diverse range of First Nations projects including several that have also successfully participated in the BC Hydro Standing Offer Program. In 2014/15, the Province signed 13 clean energy revenue-sharing agreements with First Nations. These agreements will provide First Nations with revenues received from clean energy projects based on new, net, incremental revenues to government. The First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund allows for revenue sharing with successful applicants, based on provincial resource rents (i.e. land and water rentals) prescribed under the First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund regulation, that result from clean energy projects that receive land or water authorizations after the enactment of the *Clean Energy Act*.

Objective 5: Work with Aboriginal peoples to enhance and build capacity in Aboriginal communities, governments and organizations

Strategies

- Manage the First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund and lead negotiation of carbon offset-sharing arrangements with First Nations.
- Provide economic opportunities through the implementation of treaties and other agreements with Aboriginal peoples.
- Support governance and capacity initiatives in Aboriginal communities, governments and organizations including working with First Nations through multi-sectoral partnerships such as the Tahltan Socio-cultural Working Group and the Off-Reserve Aboriginal Action Plan.
- Support Métis governance and capacity development on a tripartite basis.
- Work with Aboriginal youth organizations to support Aboriginal youth to develop their capacity and opportunities for engaging with government on issues of importance to them.

Performance Measure 5: Capacity building

Performance Measure	2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Target	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target
Number of capacity-building engagements with communities, youth and Aboriginal organizations.	12	19	12	14	12	12

Data Source: Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation.

Discussion

In 2014/15 the ministry renewed its focus on building partnerships with Aboriginal youth, communities and organizations. These efforts allowed the ministry to exceed its target resulting in 14 capacity building engagements for the year. The following examples provide information on the types of capacity building engagements in which the ministry participates.

Tahltan Socio-Cultural Working Group

In 2014/15, the ministry continued its award winning partnership with the Tahltan Socio Cultural Working Group (TSCWG). The TSCWG worked to build and strengthen the strategic leadership and governance institutions to prepare Tahltan citizens, families and communities to participate in and benefit from economic development in their territory while protecting Tahltan culture and communities against potential negative impacts of development. The TSCWG worked across five sectors - Language and Culture, Training and Employment, Health, Family and Community Development, and Education – with three Tahltan governments – Tahltan Band, Iskut First Nation and Tahltan Central Council - in three Tahltan Nation communities – Telegraph Creek, Iskut and Dease Lake. The ministry supported three TahltanWorks workshops with industry, government funders and partner institutions to advance the employment and training strategy of the Tahltan Nation.

Nanwakolas Community Well-being Strengthening Strategy

In 2014/15, the ministry worked with the Nanwakolas Council as they launched their community-based process to develop their Community Well-being Strengthening Strategy – an opportunity facilitated by the Reconciliation Protocol concluded between the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation and the Nanwakolas Council in 2011. The project is enabling the Nanwakolas Council and its member Nations to articulate their unique vison and practical initiatives for community well-being in which common priority areas – health, economy, resources, culture and community are intertwined and interdependent.

The ground-breaking work of the Nanwakolas Council to implement the Community Well-being Strengthening Strategy is enhancing the capacity of both its member Nations and provincial agencies in their efforts to partner more effectively to improve community well-being and promote socio-cultural reconciliation.

Unified Aboriginal Youth Collective

The Unified Aboriginal Youth Collective (UAYC) prepared their draft report to provide the Province with Aboriginal youth input on the *BC's Skills for Jobs Blueprint*. The report will be presented in 2015/16 and accompanied by a video where youth share their voices on training, careers and cultural confidence. Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rJPJDnqL3ig&feature=youtu.be

Aboriginal Youth Workers

In response to requests for more support to youth workers, youth in First Nations' communities and Aboriginal organizations across British Columbia, the BC Aboriginal Youth Workers Network was

created. The network is made up of 140 diverse service providers, leaders and advocates who support work related to youth engagement and youth leadership development. The network promotes community-to-community learning, peer mentorship, personal and professional development, and youth work advocacy. In March 2015, the ministry brought together 20 youth workers from the network for two forums in both Terrace and Vancouver. These strategic sessions have led to the development of a leadership body for the network.

Aboriginal Youth Internship Program

The ministry continues to participate on the Steering Committee, reviewing proposals, participating on the hiring panels and providing advice on the direction of the program. From September 2013 to August 2014, the ministry had three interns - Joshua Gottfriedson from the Tk'emlúps te Secwepemc, Heather Spence from the Squamish and Haida First Nations and Rowan Forseth from the Seabird Island First Nation. Each intern brought a range of skills, ideas and energy to their jobs and took away a better understanding of the provincial government's roles and responsibilities.

Objective 6: Work across government to support the delivery of programs and services to off-reserve and urban Aboriginal populations

Strategies

- Work with provincial ministries to identify how to better coordinate programs to improve outcomes.
- Work with provincial ministries, Aboriginal partners, the federal government and local governments to develop an Off-Reserve Aboriginal Action Plan.
- Undertake evidence-based research to support the Aboriginal action plan.
- Work with the five Off-Reserve Aboriginal Action Plan's pilot communities (Vancouver, Surrey, Duncan, Prince George and Kamloops) to support the implementation of the Off-Reserve Aboriginal Action Plan including the development of work plans outlining key initiatives for future work.

Discussion

The Off-Reserve Aboriginal Action Plan engages urban Aboriginal peoples by bringing together collective resources, knowledge, and creativity at local, provincial, and federal levels along with key Aboriginal partner organizations to focus on three shared priorities: increasing employment recruitment and retention; education and training opportunities; and engaging the growing youth population.

It is important to note that these priorities are seen within a holistic context whereby success in jobs and training can happen only when foundational supports such as housing, health, child care, and justice-related matters are in place.

With the re-affirmation of the federal / provincial relationship in 2014/15 based on the 2012 Memorandum of Collaboration on Off-Reserve and Urban Aboriginal Initiatives in BC, a total of

$1.8 million was invested to support Off-Reserve Aboriginal Action Plan / Urban Aboriginal Strategy activities in four primary areas:

- increasing capacity in urban Aboriginal communities;
- closing the socio-economic gaps;
- increasing participation in the economy; and
- reconciliation.

The Off-Reserve Aboriginal Action Plan is identified in the *BC's Skills for Jobs Blueprint* as the mechanism through which urban Aboriginal peoples will gain better access to education, skills training and employment resulting in greater participation in the economy.

Significant progress was achieved in demonstrating the value and innovation in moving the off-reserve Aboriginal agenda forward.

Financial Report – Summary Table

	Estimated	Other Authorizations[1]	Total Estimated	Actual	Variance[4]
Operating Expenses ($000)					
Negotiations and Regional Operations	13,537	0	13,537	11,751	(1,786)
Partnerships and Community Renewal	4,228	4,500	8,728	8,472	(256)
Strategic Initiatives	14,345	3,247	17,592	15,323	(2,268)
Executive and Support Services[3]	4,385	0	4,385	8,695	4,310
Treaty and Other Agreements Funding.....	42,454	51,640	94,094	94,094	0
First Citizens' Fund Special Account.....	2,830	0	2,830	2,830	0
First Ntions Clean Energy Business Fund Special Account.....	496	1,455	1951	1,951	0
Sub-Total	**82,275**	**60,841**	**143,116**	**143,116**	**0**
Adjustment of Prior Year Accural[2]	0	0	0	(7,974)	(7,974)
Total	82,275	60,841	143,116	135,142	(7,974)
Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) ($000)					
Executive & Support Services	1	0	1	0	(1)
Total	**1**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**(1)**

[1] "Other Authorizations" include Supplementary Estimates, Statutory Appropriations and Contingencies. Amounts in this column are not related to the "estimated amount" under sections 5(1) and 6(1) of the Balanced Budget and Ministerial Accountability Act for ministerial accountability for operating expenses under the Act.

[2] The Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual of $7.974 million is a reversal of accruals in the previous year.

[3] The primary reason for costs exceeding core business budget is due to central recognition of actual legal expenses in Executive and Support Services.

[4] "Variance" represents "Actual" minus "Total Estimated". If the Actual is greater than the Total Estimated, the Variance will be displayed as a positive number.

Appendix A: Contact Information and Hyperlinks

Contact Information

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Hyperlinks to Additional Information

BC Treaty Commission
www.bctreaty.net/index.php

Métis Nation Relationship Accord
http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/DownloadAsset?assetId=FFA6DACA442743418B9A3151578E1BBF&filename=metis_relationship_accord_signed.pdf

The New Relationship
http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/DownloadAsset?assetId=BB4532813FA04F17AE624D290DF792AE&filename=new_relationship_accord.pdf

New Relationship Trust
www.newrelationshiptrust.ca/

Transformative Change Accord
www.gov.bc.ca/arr/social/down/transformative_change_accord.pdf

A list of statutes that fall under the responsibility of the ministry can be found at:
www.leg.bc.ca/procs/allacts/arr.htm

Appendix B: List of Crowns, Agencies, Boards and Commissions

First Peoples' Cultural Council
www.fphlcc.ca/

Appendix C: Minister's Mandate and Actions Summary

In the Premier's annual Mandate Letter to the Minister dated June 10, 2013, the Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation received direction on strategic priorities for the 2014/15 fiscal year. These priorities and the ministry's resulting actions are summarized below:

Mandate Letter Direction	Ministry's Action
1. Balance your ministerial budget in order to control spending and ensure an overall balanced budget for the Province of British Columbia	Met ministerial budget.
2. Continue to work with BC First Nations to secure long term treaties that provide economic benefit and security for all British Columbians.	The Province signed two incremental treaty agreements with First Nations.
3. Work with BC First Nations that are impacted by natural gas extraction, pipelines or liquefied natural gas facilities to ensure they are provided with the ability to participate in this generational opportunity.	The ministry engaged with over 40 First Nations to discuss the benefits related to liquefied natural gas development in British Columbia and to develop a collaborative Environmental Stewardship Initiative and a liquefied natural gas skills and training plan.
4. Work with BC First Nations that are in the area of a new proposed refinery to ensure they are provided with the opportunity to participate in and benefit from this economic opportunity.	Nisga'a Nation concluded a benefits agreement with the Province which provides for substantial financial and other benefits to the Nisga'a Nation. The Nisga'a Nation is actively seeking investors to utilize this option to locate a liquefied natural gas liquefaction facility on Nisga'a lands. The Kitselas First Nation is in the area of a proposed refinery. Kitselas First Nation signed pipeline benefit agreements for the proposed CGL project, TransCanada's proposed Prince Rupert Gas Transmission project, and Spectra Energy's proposed Westcoast Connector Gas Transmission project.
5. Implement our commitment in Strong Economy, Secure Tomorrow to secure another 10 new non-treaty benefit agreements over the next two years and showcase the economic and social results of these agreements to encourage further First Nation participation.	In 2014/15, the Province signed 11 non-treaty agreements with First Nations (i.e. economic benefit agreements, strategic engagement agreements, economic and community development agreements, and reconciliation agreements). The combined total for 2013/14 and 2014/15 is 21 non-treaty agreements. Clean energy business fund agreements are not included in these outcomes.
6. Work with BC First Nations to ensure they participate in the Standing Offer Program by BC Hydro through the First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund.	The Province signed 13 clean energy business fund agreements with First Nations.

7. Work with the Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training to increase the number of First Nations people participating in our apprenticeship and skills training programs to ensure economic prosperity includes First Nations members.	The ministry is advancing collective First Nations engagement and industry engagement through its ongoing support of the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training work with the Aboriginal Business and Investment Council. The mandate of the Council is to advance Aboriginal participation in the economy.